(b) if so, the comprehensive plan/measures evolved to control this unabated increase;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the proposal under Government's consideration to give unemployment allowance to unemployed youth registered with various employment exchanges; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) As per the Labour Force Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during the years 1993-94 and 1999-2000, the number of unemployed persons has marginally gone up from around 75 lakh in 1993-94 to 90 lakh in 1999-2000 as per Usual Status Approach.

The approach to the Tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

(d) and (e) Central Government is not in favour of giving unemployment allowance to the unemployed registered with Employment Exchanges due to financial constraints.

Elimination of child labour

4605. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given thought to control child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether any time-bound action-plan has been drawn-up to completely eliminate this shameful practice in a phased manner; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. A National Policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987, which envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws, convergence of ongoing development programmes for the benefit of child Labour and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour. National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) have been set up in 100 districts in the country. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act.

(c) and (d) Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem to be dealt with through sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted for complete elimination of child labour, beginning with the children working in hazardous occupations.

Committee on Problems of Industrial Child Labour

4606. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee was constituted to study the problems of children working in hazardous industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and